

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2379

To authorize the Secretary of Interior to cancel certain grazing leases on land in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that are voluntarily waived by the lessees, to provide for the exchange of certain Monument land in exchange for private land, to designate certain Monument land as wilderness, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2007

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Interior to cancel certain grazing leases on land in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that are voluntarily waived by the lessees, to provide for the exchange of certain Monument land in exchange for private land, to designate certain Monument land as wilderness, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Cascade-Siskiyou Na-
3 tional Monument Voluntary and Equitable Grazing Con-
4 flict Resolution Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

7 (1) Presidential Proclamation Number 7318,
8 dated June 13, 2000 (65 Fed. Reg. 37247), which
9 established the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monu-
10 ment, created unique regulatory and statutory over-
11 lays with respect to the Monument;

12 (2) compensating lessees that voluntarily waive
13 their grazing leases and end livestock grazing on
14 Federal land in and near the Monument would pro-
15 vide lessees new economic opportunities, including
16 opportunities to—

17 (A) restructure ranch operations;

18 (B) start new businesses; or

19 (C) retire with security;

20 (3) regardless of the legal merits of continued
21 grazing on the Monument, there is support from the
22 ranching, environmental, and other local commu-
23 nities and government officials for a fair and equi-
24 table resolution of grazing conflicts;

25 (4) the land exchange authorized under this Act
26 is in the public interest because the exchange—

1 (A) furthers the protective purposes of the
2 Monument;

3 (B) provides for consolidated land owner-
4 ship;

5 (C) improves land and resource manage-
6 ment;

7 (D) decreases management costs; and

8 (E) resolves public conflict;

9 (5) the waiver of grazing leases under this Act
10 is not intended to reflect on—

11 (A) the legal or ecological merit of contin-
12 ued grazing within the Monument; or

13 (B) the merit of proposals to limit or retire
14 grazing permits in the State of Oregon or any
15 other State; and

16 (6) designating certain portions of the Monu-
17 ment as wilderness would ensure that an increasing
18 population, expanding settlement, and increasing
19 mechanization would not modify those portions in a
20 manner that would cumulatively deny future genera-
21 tions the opportunity to the wilderness experience.

22 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

23 (1) to maintain the economic viability of cattle
24 ranching in the vicinity of the Monument;

1 (2) to authorize the permanent retirement of
2 certain grazing leases and associated allotments
3 within and in the vicinity of the Monument; and

4 (3) to protect unique ecological diversity and
5 high quality outdoor recreational opportunities in
6 the wildest portions of the Monument by designating
7 the portions as the Soda Mountain Wilderness.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND.—

11 The term “Bureau of Land Management land”
12 means the approximately 40 acres of land under the
13 jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in
14 the Monument, as generally depicted on the land ex-
15 change map.

16 (2) GRAZING ALLOTMENT.—The term “grazing
17 allotment” means the Box R, Buck Lake, Buck
18 Mountain, Buck Point, Conde Creek, Cove Creek,
19 Cove Creek Ranch, Deadwood, Dixie, Grizzly, How-
20 ard Prairie, Jenny Creek, Keene Creek, North Cove
21 Creek, and Soda Mountain grazing allotments in the
22 State.

23 (3) GRAZING LEASE.—The term “grazing
24 lease” means any document authorizing the use of

1 a grazing allotment for the purpose of grazing do-
2 mestic livestock for commercial purposes.

3 (4) LAND EXCHANGE MAP.—The term “land
4 exchange map” means the map entitled “Box R
5 Ranch Land Exchange” and dated [____], 2007.

6 (5) LANDOWNER.—The term “Landowner”
7 means Box-R Ranch in the State.

8 (6) LESSEE.—The term “lessee” means a live-
9 stock operator that holds a valid term grazing lease
10 for a grazing allotment.

11 (7) LIVESTOCK.—The term “livestock” does not
12 include beasts of burden used for recreational pur-
13 poses in the Monument.

14 (8) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument”
15 means the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in
16 the State.

17 (9) RANGE DEVELOPMENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “range devel-
19 opment” means any structure, fence, water de-
20 velopment, or other permanent fixture placed
21 on a grazing allotment relating to grazing do-
22 mestic livestock.

23 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “range devel-
24 opment” does not include any rolling stock, live-

1 stock, or diversions of water from Federal land
2 onto non-Federal land.

3 (10) ROWLETT PARCEL.—The term “Rowlett
4 parcel” means the parcel of approximately 40 acres
5 of private land, as depicted on the land exchange
6 map.

7 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
8 means the Secretary of the Interior.

9 (12) STATE.—The term “State” means the
10 State of Oregon.

11 (13) WILDERNESS.—The term “Wilderness”
12 means the Soda Mountain Wilderness designated by
13 section 6(a).

14 (14) WILDERNESS MAP.—The term “wilderness
15 map” means the map entitled “Soda Mountain Wil-
16 derness” and dated [____], 2007.

17 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTARY GRAZING LEASE WAIVER PROGRAM.**

18 (a) EXISTING GRAZING LEASES.—

19 (1) WAIVER.—The Secretary—

20 (A) shall, subject to the availability of
21 funds, offer to provide compensation to a lessee
22 in exchange for the waiver by a lessee of a graz-
23 ing lease; and

24 (B) if the lessee accepts the offer in ac-
25 cordance with this section, shall, not later than

1 30 days after the date on which the lessee ac-
2 cepts the offer, simultaneously—

3 (i) provide to the lessee the compensa-
4 tion specified in paragraph (2);

5 (ii) terminate the grazing lease
6 waived; and

7 (iii) permanently retire the associated
8 grazing allotment or portion of the grazing
9 allotment from livestock grazing use.

10 (2) AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION.—Compensa-
11 tion for the waiver of a grazing lease under para-
12 graph (1) shall be equal to \$300 per authorized ani-
13 mal unit month.

14 (3) PARTIAL ALLOTMENT RETIREMENTS.—If a
15 lessee offers to waive only the Monument portion of
16 a grazing lease for a grazing allotment that is par-
17 tially in the Monument, the Secretary shall, at full
18 Federal expense, construct and maintain a fence to
19 exclude livestock from the portion of the grazing al-
20 lotment that is within the boundaries of the Monu-
21 ment.

22 (4) JOINT LEASE.—If a grazing allotment is
23 jointly leased to more than one lessee—

24 (A) the Secretary shall not accept waiver
25 of a joint grazing lease unless all lessees subject

1 to the grazing lease exercise the option to waive
2 the grazing lease under paragraph (1); or

3 (B) if the option is not exercised by all the
4 lessees under paragraph (1), the Secretary
5 shall—

6 (i) in communication, consultation,
7 and cooperation with any lessees that do
8 not exercise the option under paragraph
9 (1), construct and maintain a fence at
10 Federal expense for the purpose of keeping
11 livestock within a reduced area of the graz-
12 ing allotment that is commercially and sea-
13 sonally proportional with the remaining au-
14 thorized animal unit months in the grazing
15 allotment, including private land used as
16 exchange of use on the date of enactment
17 of this Act; and

18 (ii) accept the waived portion of the
19 joint lease from any joint lessees that have
20 exercised the option under paragraph (1).

21 (5) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary—

22 (A) with respect to the Agate, Emigrant
23 Creek, and Siskiyou allotments in and near the
24 Monument as of the date of enactment of this
25 Act—

1 (i) shall not issue grazing leases; and

2 (ii) shall permanently retire the allot-
3 ments from livestock grazing use; and

4 (B) shall not establish any new allotments
5 that include—

6 (i) any Federal land within a grazing
7 allotment or an allotment described in sub-
8 paragraph (A); or

9 (ii) any Monument land (whether
10 leased or not leased for grazing on the date
11 of enactment of this Act).

12 (6) DEADLINE.—To waive a grazing lease in
13 accordance with this section, a lessee shall exercise
14 the right to waive the grazing lease by not later than
15 the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment
16 of this Act.

17 (7) EFFECT OF WAIVER.—A lessee who receives
18 compensation for voluntarily waiving a grazing lease
19 under this section shall be considered to have waived
20 any claim to all range developments on the associ-
21 ated grazing allotments.

22 (8) DONATION OF GRAZING LEASES.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section
24 prevents a lessee from donating to the Sec-
25 retary, at any time, a grazing lease without

1 Federal compensation, in accordance with this
2 section.

3 (B) ACCEPTANCE BY.—If a lessee donates
4 a grazing lease to the Secretary, the Secretary
5 shall accept the donation in accordance with
6 clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (1)(B).

7 (b) ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS.—Beginning on the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall not au-
9 thorize any allotments for livestock grazing on Monument
10 land that are not in existence on the date of enactment
11 of this Act.

12 **SEC. 5. LAND EXCHANGE.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of protecting and
14 consolidating Federal land within the Monument, the Sec-
15 retary—

16 (1) may offer to convey to the Landowner the
17 Bureau of Land Management land in exchange for
18 the Rowlett parcel; and

19 (2) if the Landowner accepts the offer, not later
20 than 70 days after the date on which the Landowner
21 conveys acceptable title to the Rowlett parcel to the
22 Secretary, shall convey to the Landowner all right,
23 title, and interest of the United States in and to the
24 Bureau of Land Management land.

25 (b) SURVEYS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The exact acreage and legal
2 description of the Bureau of Land Management land
3 and the Rowlett parcel shall be determined by sur-
4 veys approved by the Secretary.

5 (2) COSTS.—The Secretary shall be responsible
6 for paying the costs of—

7 (A) any survey conducted under paragraph
8 (1); and

9 (B) any other administrative costs relating
10 to the land exchange authorized under this sec-
11 tion.

12 (c) CONDITIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance of Bureau
14 of Land Management land and the Rowlett parcel
15 under subsection (a) shall be subject to valid exist-
16 ing rights.

17 (2) TITLE APPROVAL.—Title to the Rowlett
18 parcel shall conform with the title approval stand-
19 ards applicable to Federal land acquisitions.

20 (d) APPLICABLE LAW.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
22 vided in this section, the conveyance of Bureau of
23 Land Management land under this section is subject
24 to any laws (including regulations) applicable to the

1 conveyance and acquisition of land under the juris-
 2 diction of the Bureau of Land Management.

3 (2) EXEMPTION.—The exchange of land au-
 4 thorized under this section shall not—

5 (A) require the promulgation of additional
 6 regulations by the Secretary; or

7 (B) be subject to the notice and comment
 8 provisions of section 553 of title 5, United
 9 States Code.

10 (e) GRAZING ALLOTMENT.—On completion of the
 11 land exchange authorized under this section, the holder
 12 of the grazing lease for the Box R grazing allotment shall
 13 donate the Box R grazing lease in accordance with section
 14 4(a)(8).

15 **SEC. 6. SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.**

16 (a) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilder-
 17 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), approximately 23,000
 18 acres of Monument land, as generally depicted on the wil-
 19 derness map, is designated as wilderness and as a compo-
 20 nent of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to
 21 be known as the “Soda Mountain Wilderness”.

22 (b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

23 (1) SUBMISSION OF MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIP-
 24 TION.—As soon as practicable after the date of en-

1 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map
2 and legal description of the Wilderness with—

3 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
4 Resources of the Senate; and

5 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
6 of the House of Representatives.

7 (2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The map and legal de-
9 scription filed under paragraph (1) shall have
10 the same force and effect as if included in this
11 Act, except that the Secretary may correct any
12 clerical or typographical error in the map or
13 legal description.

14 (B) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall
15 submit to Congress notice of any changes made
16 in the map or legal description under subpara-
17 graph (A), including notice of the reason for
18 the change.

19 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal
20 description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file
21 and available for public inspection in—

22 (A) the Office of the Director of the Bu-
23 reau of Land Management;

24 (B) the Office of the Oregon State Direc-
25 tor of the Bureau of Land Management; and

1 (C) the Medford District Office of the Bu-
 2 reau of Land Management.

3 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing
 5 rights, the Wilderness shall be administered by the
 6 Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16
 7 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in
 8 the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wil-
 9 derness Act shall be considered to be a reference to
 10 the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (2) FIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT
 12 ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may take such meas-
 13 ures in the Wilderness as are necessary to control
 14 and prevent fire, insects, and diseases, as provided
 15 in section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
 16 1133(d)(1)) and the guidelines contained in [the
 17 Report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Af-
 18 fairs (H. Rept. 98–40) to accompany the California
 19 Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–425; 16
 20 U.S.C. 1131 note).]

21 (3) LIVESTOCK.—

22 (A) ADMINISTRATION.—Except as pro-
 23 vided in section 4 and Presidential Proclama-
 24 tion Number 7318, dated June 13, 2000 (65
 25 Fed. Reg. 37247), any grazing of livestock and

1 the maintenance of range development in the
2 Wilderness established before the date of enact-
3 ment of this Act shall be permitted to continue
4 in accordance with—

5 (i) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness
6 Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

7 (ii) the guidelines set forth in Appen-
8 dix A of the report of the Committee on
9 Interior and Insular Affairs of the House
10 of Representatives accompanying H.R.
11 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept.
12 101-405).

13 (B) RETIREMENT OF CERTAIN PERMITS.—

14 On the retirement of any grazing lease applica-
15 ble to any portion of the Wilderness, grazing of
16 domestic livestock in the applicable portion of
17 the Wilderness shall be prohibited.

18 (4) FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.—In ac-
19 cordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act
20 (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this Act affects
21 the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and
22 wildlife on public land in the State.

23 (5) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act
2 creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone
3 around the Wilderness.

4 (B) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS.—
5 The fact that a nonwilderness activity or use
6 can be seen or heard from the Wilderness shall
7 not preclude the conduct of the activity or use
8 outside the boundary of the Wilderness.

9 **SEC. 7. EFFECT.**

10 Nothing in this Act—

11 (1) affects the authority of a Federal agency to
12 otherwise modify or terminate grazing permits or
13 leases without compensation;

14 (2) authorizes the use of eminent domain;

15 (3) creates a property right in any grazing per-
16 mit or lease on Federal land;

17 (4) establishes a precedent for future grazing
18 permit or lease buyout programs; or

19 (5) affects the allocation, ownership, interest, or
20 control, in existence on the date of enactment of this
21 Act, of any water, water right, or any other valid ex-
22 isting right held by the United States, an Indian
23 tribe, a State, or a private individual, partnership, or
24 corporation.

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
3 priated to the Secretary—

4 (1) \$2,000,000 to provide compensation to les-
5 sees that waive grazing leases under section 4;

6 (2) \$1,500,000 for fence construction and other
7 methods of livestock control in and near the Monu-
8 ment; and

9 (3) for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year
10 thereafter (adjusted for inflation), \$150,000 for the
11 purpose of preventing domestic livestock from enter-
12 ing the grazing allotments or portions of the grazing
13 allotments waived under section 4(a).

14 (b) LIMITATION.—None of the amounts made avail-
15 able under subsection (a) shall be used by any Federal
16 agency for administrative costs incurred in carrying out
17 this Act.

18 (c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available under
19 subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

○